

EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

(Sept. 28, 1946)

Art. 49. A question of confidence may not be put except after discussion by the council of ministers; it can be put only by the president of the council. (The Premier).

The vote on a question of confidence may not be taken until one full day after it has been put before the assembly. It shall be taken by a roll call.

The cabinet may not be refused a vote of confidence except by an absolute majority of the deputies in the assembly.

Refusal to give such a vote shall automatically result in the collective resignation of the cabinet.

Art. 50. Passage of a motion of censure by the National Assembly shall automatically result in the collective resignation of the cabinet.

The vote on such a motion cannot be taken until one full day after it has been made. It must be taken by a roll call.

A motion of censure may be adopted only by an absolute majority of the deputies in the assembly.

Art. 51. If in the course of an eighteen-month period two ministerial crises occur under the conditions set forth in Articles 49 and 50, the council of ministers with the concurrence of the president of the assembly (Le Trocquet) may decide to dissolve the National Assembly (Mayer fell 5/21/53). Its dissolution shall be proclaimed by a decree of the President of the Republic, in accordance with such decision.

The provisions of the preceding paragraph may not be applied before the expiration of the first eighteen months of the legislature.

Art. 52. In case of dissolution, the cabinet, with the exception of the president of the council and the minister of the interior, shall remain in office to carry out current business.

The President of the Republic shall appoint the president of the National Assembly as president of the council. The latter shall appoint the new minister of the interior with the approval of the secretariat of the National Assembly. He shall appoint as ministers of state members of party groups not represented in the government.

General elections shall take place not less than twenty and not more than thirty days after the dissolution.

The National Assembly shall convene by right on the third Thursday after its election.

NSC BRIEFING

9 June 1954

INDOCHINA

I. [redacted] expecta-  
tion heavy Viet Minh delta campaign.

A. Redeployment battle corps  
nearing completion.

B. Viet Minh combat strength -  
66,500. [Plus guerrillas]

C. French <sup>Union</sup> combat strength -  
97,700.

D. [redacted]

II. [redacted] piecemeal use of divisions,  
not mass assault.

III. Indications French may withdraw to  
Haiphong.

25X1

A. Cogny fears inability hold  
Hanoi, says rather than  
another Dien Bien Phu he  
would withdraw to Haiphong.

B. [ ] major attack  
would force French withdrawal  
within 30 days -- city low on  
coal and rice supplies.

IV. Continued attacks expected meanwhile  
on Hanoi-Haiphong routes and in  
southern delta.

A. Cutting of Hanoi's supply  
routes to be intensified.

B. Three-regiment Viet Minh  
task force organized to  
take Phu Ly.

25X1

C. [ ]  
enemy trying keep French off  
balance while building up own  
forces for major operations.

25X1

VI. Ely-Salan team may indicate French hope for early settlement.

- A. Ely essentially staff officer.
- B. Salan's defensive-mindedness.
- C. Salan possibly chosen to administer armistice.
- D. This connection, Dupont (new minister Associated States) favors partition at Col de Nuages, north of Tourane.

25X1

25X1

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